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10/534,366

05/09/2005

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05284/LH

2943

1933 7590 05/09/2008  
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EXAMINER

KOVAL, MELISSA J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2862

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/09/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

|                              |                                      |                                    |  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b><br>10/534,366 | <b>Applicant(s)</b><br>SATO, KUNIO |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>MELISSA J. KOVAL  | <b>Art Unit</b><br>2862            |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 April 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-9 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 10 and 11 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 May 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Election/Restrictions***

1. The following remarks were set forth in the office action of March 14, 2007 and are repeated for applicant's convenience:

Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, Embodiment 1, drawn to Figures 1 through 6 in the reply filed on February 12, 2007 is acknowledged.

Claims 4 through 9 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made without traverse in the reply filed on February 12, 2007.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

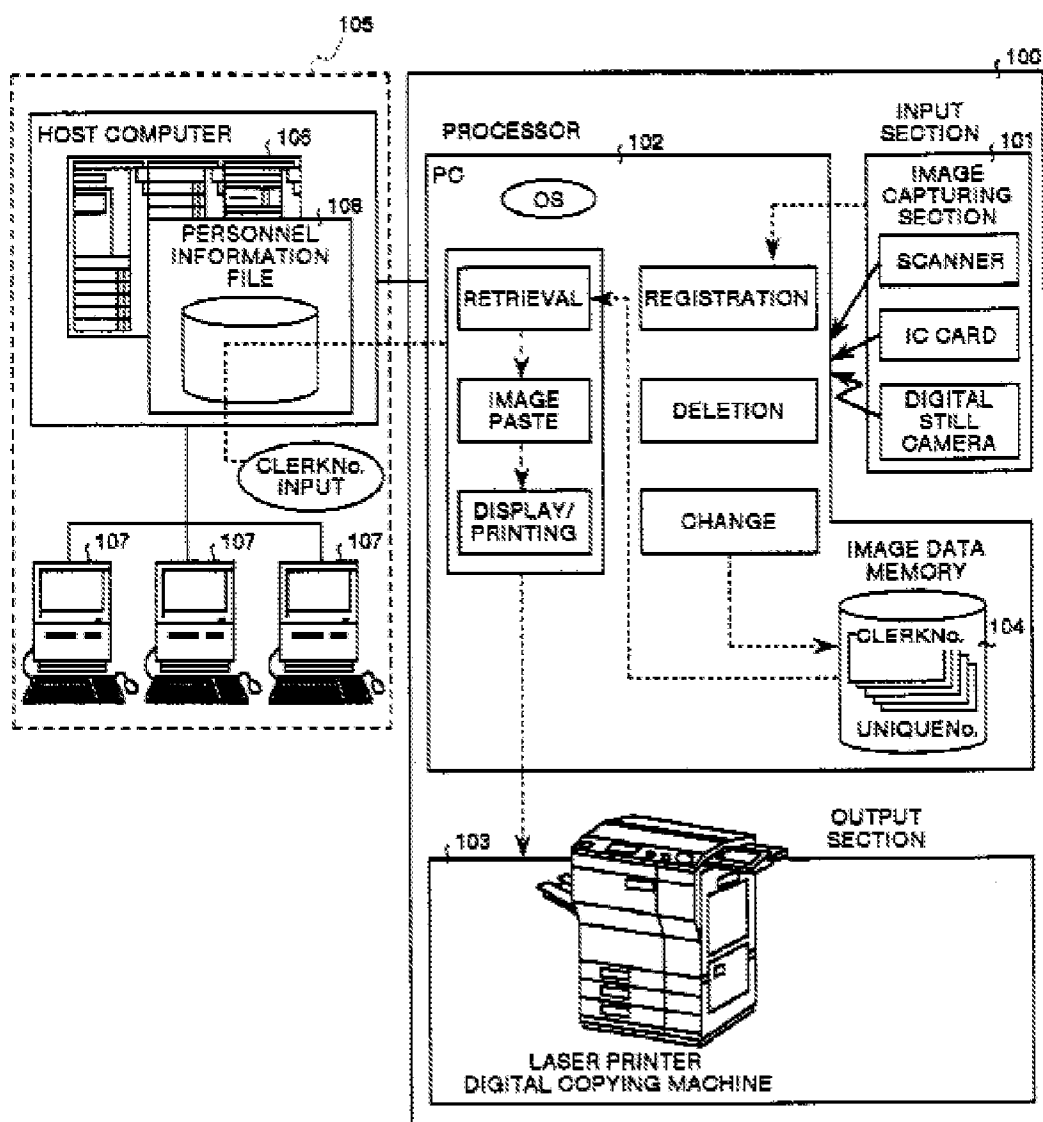
2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –  
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hasegawa et al. U.S. Patent 6,333,742 B1.

See Figure 1, for example.

FIG. 1



See column 8, lines 31 through 44.

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The input section 101 executes processing for capturing an image, and includes, for instance, a scanner, an IC card, digital still camera, a photo CD reader or the like. The inputting section captures an image, converts the captured image into a one having a specified file format, and transmits the image to the processor 102.

The processor 102 executes processing such as registration, deletion, and change of the image captured by the input section 101, and executes the processing with the help of, for instance, a personal computer (PC). A image data memory 104 incorporated or externally attached to the processor 102 stores the image data processed in the processor 102 in, for instance, a hard disk, a floppy disk, a rewritable CD-ROM, MOD, DVD or the like.

Also see column 9, lines 7 through 35.

Examples of applications of the image and document preparing system includes, for instance, a name card preparing system for preparing a name card with a photograph of the owner's face printed thereon, a post card preparing system for preparing post cards such as information cards each including photographs of products or faces of staff, an ID card preparing system for preparing an ID card with the owner's face printed thereon, a leaflet preparing system for preparing leaflets such as documents for business planning, pamphlets for advertisement, or catalogs, and a card preparing system for preparing cards each with a photograph printed thereon.

Further the examples of application thereof includes a personnel affairs information system for preparing and managing photographs or personnel histories of employees, a register with employees' faces printed thereon such as their financial statements, address, maps; a used car retrieving system for retrieving information for used cars with photographs of owners' faces printed thereon respectively; a purchase information planning system for managing purchase information, a system dedicated for construction systems with process management information and a ledger for works synthesized therein; a system for preparing views each showing an anticipated completed construction work combined with a three-dimensional CAD system.

It is needless to say that these systems can also be used for preparing and managing documents including color photographs or color images.

The projection systems accommodated by the teaching of '752 B1 are rear projection systems.

Embodiment 7 is illustrated by Figures 33 through 42

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Templates are described with respect to various embodiments. Embodiment 7, as illustrated by Figure 35, gives an example of how a user might draw freehand using a mouse with a plurality of templates.

FIG.35

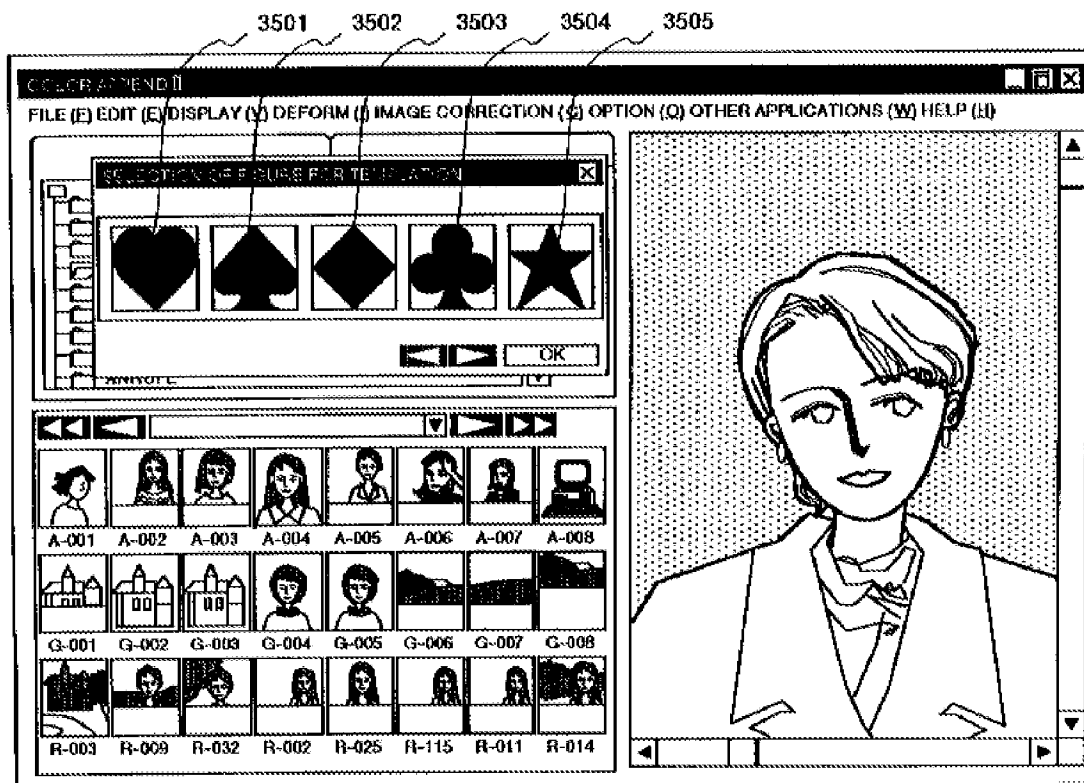
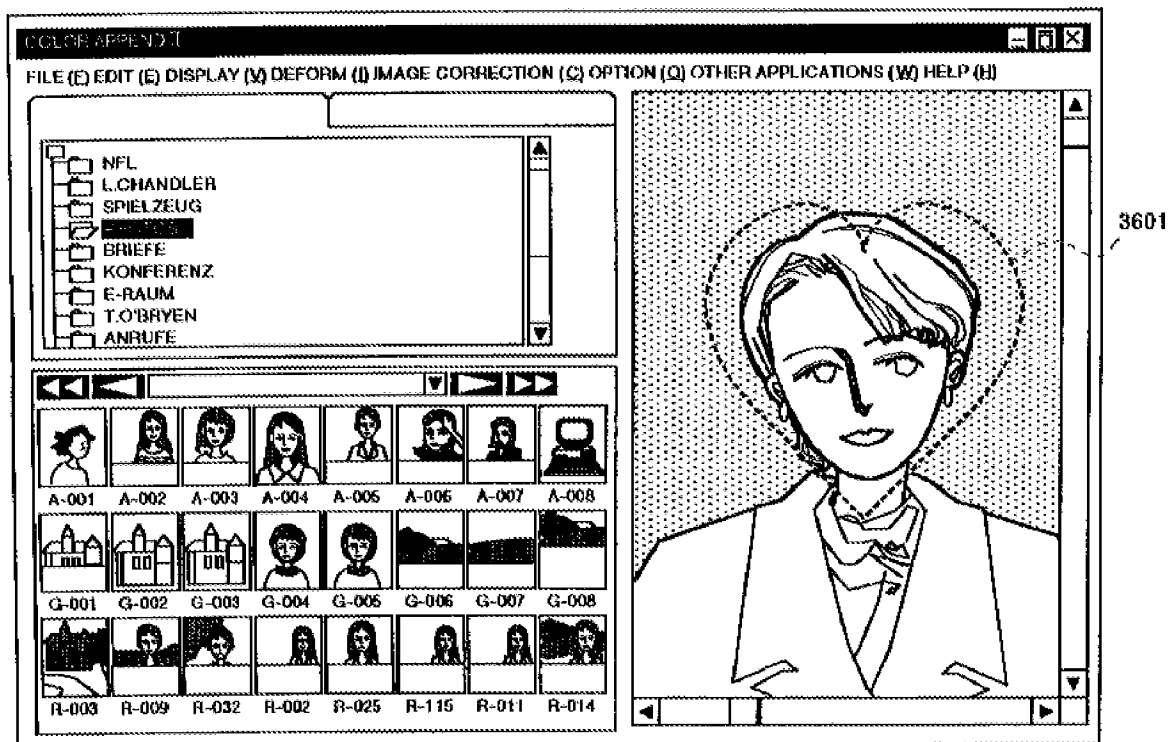


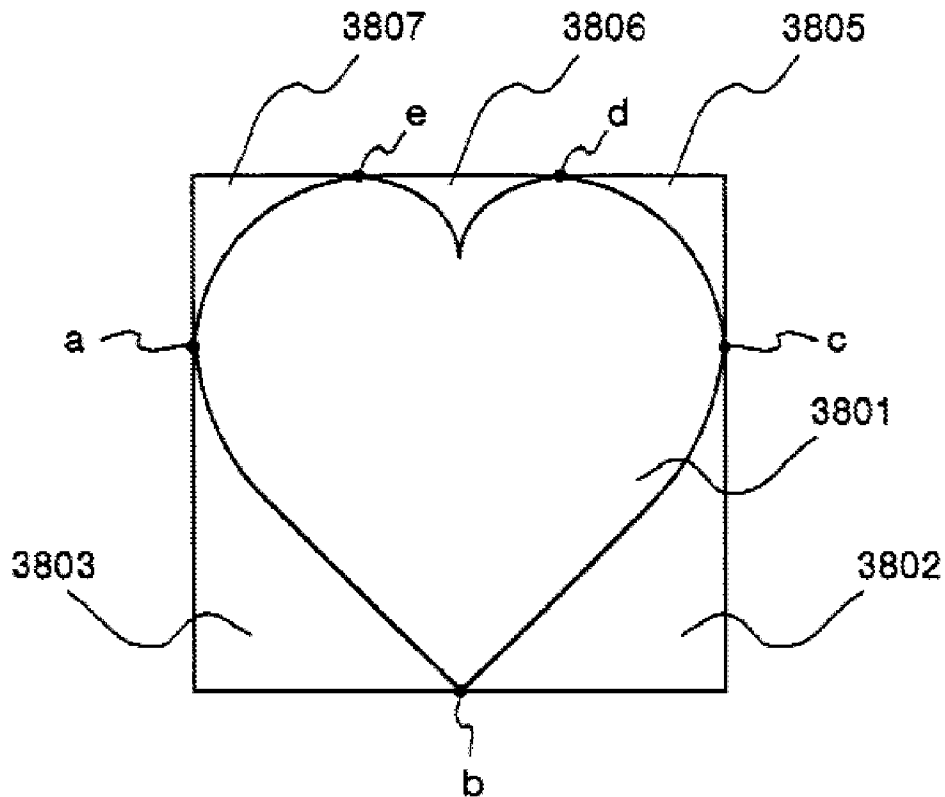
Image separation is described with respect to Figure 36.

FIG. 36



Blanking extraction is described with respect to Figure 38.

FIG.38



Claim 12 sets forth: "A method comprising:

projecting a template image (templates 3501 through 3505), which has a blank space (blank sections 3803 to 3807) to be filled in by a user, to a screen (Display 308 is shown in Figure 3, for example. An interim setting screen 3900 is also used.);

and capturing an image of said screen where said template image is projected (The image is capture by image section 101.).



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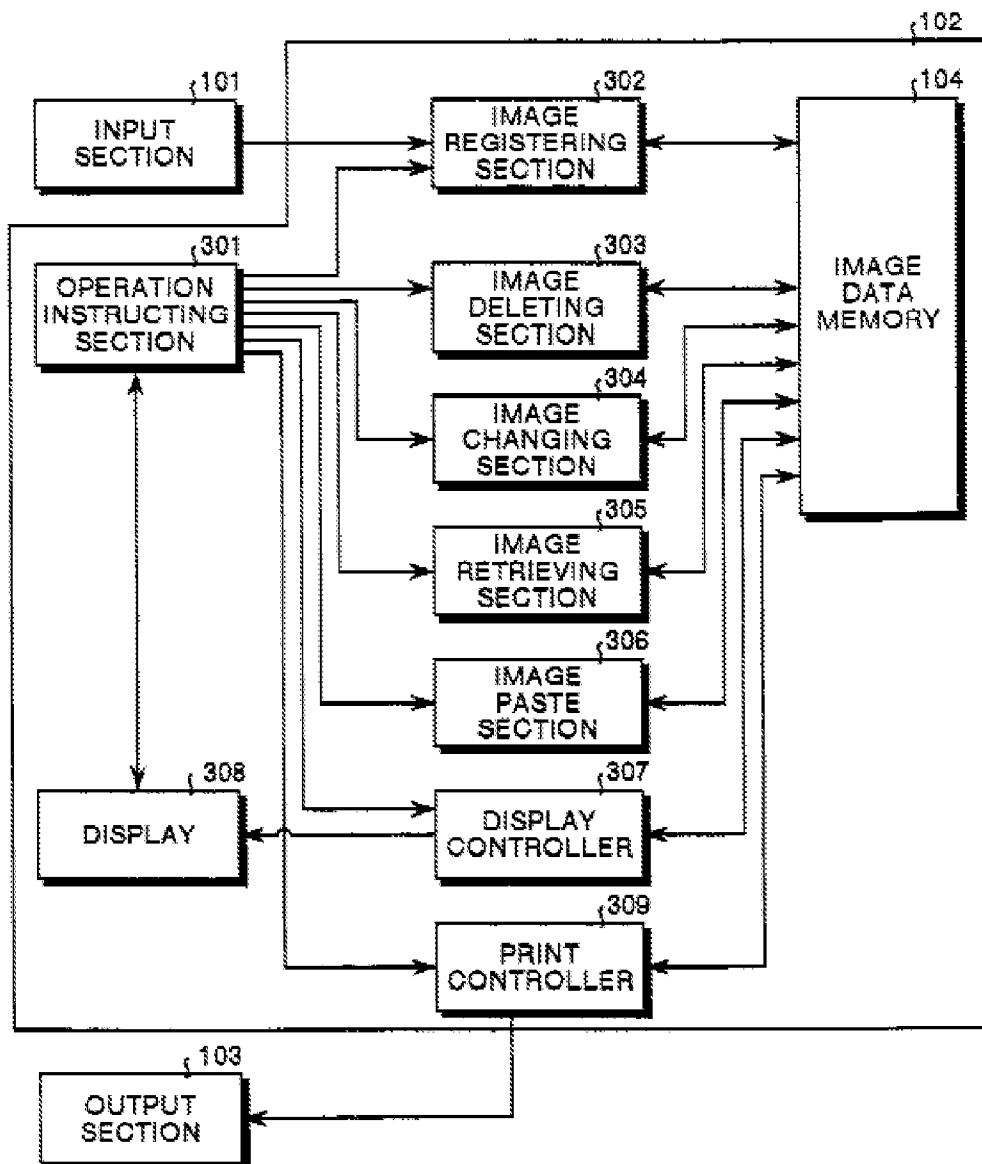
Manipulation of the blank extraction section is given in column 32, lines 24 through 55.

15 A method of computing a rectangle with a minimum size  
among those which can cover the image whose size has been  
changed especially due to separation thereof with the image  
separating section 3207 is realized, similarly to that of the  
rotated rectangular image, by obtaining the maximum value  
as well as minimum value of the coordinates in the x  
20 direction and the maximum value as well as minimum value  
of the coordinates in the y direction according to the  
coordinates of the trail along the line of separation of the  
image, and the rectangle is computed from the obtained  
values.

25 Next, description is made for extraction of a blank by the  
blank extracting section 3203. FIG. 38 explains the method  
of blank extraction employed by the blank extracting section  
3203 in the image processing apparatus according to  
Embodiment 7 of the present invention. FIG. 38 shows a  
30 separated image 3801 and a rectangle 3802 covering the  
image 3801. The image 3801 and the rectangle 3802 contact  
each other at contact points a, b, c, d, and e.

A blank section is a section remained when the image  
3801 is removed from the rectangle 3202, and a blank  
35 section 3803 is an area between the contact points a and b,  
a blank section 3804 is an area between the contact points b  
and c, a blank section 3805 is an area between the contact  
points c and d, a blank section 3806 is an area between the  
contact points d and e, and a blank section 3807 is an area  
40 between the contact points e and a respectively. Those blank  
sections 3803 to 3807 can be obtained by computing a  
difference based on the coordinates indicating the area of the  
image 3801, coordinates indicating the area of the rectangle  
3802, and coordinates of the contact points a to e. The blank  
45 extracting section 3203 extracts a blank as described above.

FIG.3



Other pertinent embodiments are shown with respect to Figures 36 though 41.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 1-3, 10 and 11 are allowed.
5. Claim 13 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MELISSA J. KOVAL whose telephone number is (571)272-2121. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.
7. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick J. Assouad can be reached on 571-272-2210. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2862

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